

MILWAUKEE FIRE DEPARTMENT

Operational Guidelines

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2016

3.0 – AUTOF (Auto Fire)

PURPOSE

Fire department responses to automobile fires have become increasingly oriented toward providing for firefighter safety as components used in the construction of automobiles have become more varied and hazardous when exposed to fire. Firefighters must weigh the risks involved when human life is not in jeopardy and the car's value has been diminished to the point that it will likely be deemed irreparable by the insurance company and, thus, not worth the risk of firefighter injury.

SCOPE

The potential safety impact upon civilians and responders should be emphasized at this type of response. Initial cooling shall be from a safe distance until the fire is reduced in size and intensity. Flush the ground near the vehicle to push any petroleum product away and to cool the fuel tank. Stand to the side of the vehicle to stay out of the hazard areas created by exploding bumper or hood/trunk support struts.

GUIDELINE

1. Establish Command
2. Conduct scene size-up
3. Position apparatus to protect the safety perimeter and working area
4. Determine strategy & incident action plan
5. Initiate and maintain communications
 - a. Provide first in report
 - b. Request dispatch make notification to law enforcement for traffic control
6. Implement incident action plan
 - a. Initially pay close attention to placarding on a vehicle indicating that it is transporting a hazardous substance
 - b. Establish a safety perimeter in accordance with the risk.
 - c. Investigate the presence of trapped occupants and remove as possible
7. Provide follow up and progress reports as necessary
8. Fuel spills or diesel spills (as from a semi-tractor's saddle tanks) which are in excess of 25 gallons necessitate a *Limited* or *Full HazMat response*.